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# SERVICE NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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The NEWS is intended to inform staff members of developments within the Service and is not for distribution to others.

Benton, Miss Mildred

July 1, 1940

YOUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS --

Today, the world is faced with a greater variety of problems than it has ever known before. The complex interdependencies of our industrial civilization, coupled with our present-day means of communication and transportation, have made all nations virtually neighbors, whether they like it or not.

Right now, the second World War is affecting our daily lives in many ways. There is a noticeable nervousness among people. Often, the tension manifests itself in irritability, short-temper, outbursts, and "flare-ups." In times like these, destructive criticism is a kind of "escape valve" for keyed-up nerves.

Beneath our sympathies for the oppressed peoples of Europe lies the realization that new problems face us in America. As a nation we are facing a period in our history when we need unity as never before -- unity of purpose and unity of action. Whoever wins the war in Europe, the effects in this country are likely to be incalculable.

Like many agencies of government, the Soil Conservation Service is entering a most critical period. There have been reductions in appropriations; we face the likelihood that valued personnel may be called from the Service to play a part in some other phase of the national defense program; there is still uncertainty as to the ultimate effects of world events on conservation and agriculture in this country. These things have upset our equilibrium; and damaged the balance in ourselves which we are trying to establish in the soil.

We must prepare ourselves for whatever lies ahead. We have made enormous gains in the past seven years. But, pressures such as we have never known before may threaten some of those gains; there may be a tendency to backtrack. Suggestions may be made that the nation plow up thousands, perhaps millions, of the acres that have only recently been anchored down.

To meet these problems, and others unforeseen, we need a new degree of unity and cooperation in the Service. Not only among ourselves but with all other agencies and departments, and with the farmers of the country.

The President has already declared that our national defense program must include defense of our soil resources. Land is still our most priceless natural resource; there never was greater necessity to preserve it. This is our job and the stake is large. We must go forward together. There is more need for this sincere esprit de corps now, than ever before; each one of us must be able to count heavily on the unwavering cooperation and perseverance of the other — in the interest of our cause and our country.

H. H. BENNETT

#### TWO GRASSLAND CONFERENCES TO BE HELD

The Western Grassland Conference will be held at Salt Lake City, Utah, from July 15 to 17. The meeting will be attended by stockmen, farmers, civic leaders, and scientists to discuss plans for more efficient use of the range and pasture and meadow grasses.

A similar group of farmers and farm leaders will meet at the regional grassland conference at Pennsylvania State College, on July 10 and 11.

#### INTERESTING REPORT FROM TRI-RIVER DISTRICT IN ARKANSAS

Dr. H. H. Bennett, Chief, Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D. C. For some time I have wanted to write you in regard to our District, and in speaking of the District naturally I refer to the people.

It has been my good fortune to know intimately the major portion of all the people in the Tri-River District through my practice of medicine in this area over a period of many years, and to watch our country change from one where farmers owned and operated their



own farms to one where many of the landowners moved to the cities, leasing or renting their lands, thus creating a problem of absentee ownership.

This transition took place most rapidly during the decade following the World War. The economic crisis of 1929 forced many of these people to return to their lands, but where most of them had left prosperous, well-kept farms they found upon returning that a one-crop system with no thought for the future, as practiced by tenants, in many cases had so impoverished the soil by increased erosion that it was hard to earn a living on the farms that had been the foundation of their short-lived era of prosperity.

To me these dissatisfied and embittered people, most of them above the average in training and natural ability, presented a serious problem from a social standpoint, as it is from such circumstances that many of our un-American "isms" have come.

Today you will find new hope, a new determination to rebuild the heritage which was so quickly wasted by the wrong way of using the land. That the work of our District has paved the way for this re-awakening of the true spirit of Americanism is my firm belief, for as our people cooperate with the District as well as with each other they regain self-independence and the trust in each other and the principles of Democracy so essential to the welfare of our whole country.

To see, and in a small way to be a part of, the building program that builds both soils and men is ample to pay for the time spent as a District Supervisor.

Thinking that you might be interested in my observations over the past years has caused me to write this somewhat rambling resume of them.

The Board of Supervisors extend you a cordial invitation to visit our District, meet our cooperators, and see the fine job being done by the agricultural agencies assisting in the educational and work program. Signed: F. W. Cox, Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Tri-River Soil Conservation District.

#### THE OPEN FORUM

Editor, Service News:

I have read with a great deal of interest, the article, "When We Talk" by Harry E. Reddick, appearing in Service News of June 15, 1940.

I believe this article should be read by all members of our Service; more especially by those who feel it a part of their duty to write numerous memorandums, news-letters and "what-nots" for other members of the Service. The same principle might be applied in writing that Mr. Reddick proposes for talking. Signed: K. I.

#### FROM VIRGINIA TO MISSISSIPPI — A ROADWAY OF DISTRICTS

A motorist traveling from Virginia to Mississippi can travel the entire distance without leaving soil conservation districts. A continuous line of districts more than 1,000 miles long now extends through the Southeastern Region.

In Virginia the motorist would enter the boundary of a district shortly after crossing the Potomac River. At the end of his trip he would find himself in the Claiborne County soil conservation district in Mississippi which borders on the Mississippi River.

Dr. T. S. Buie, regional conservator, reports that more than 83 million acres are now included in 83 organized districts in the Southeastern Region. Under memoranda of understanding signed with the supervisors, the Service is actively cooperating with 63 of these districts at the present time.

If the area embraced in districts were compressed into a solid strip, it would form a band 130 miles wide throughout the 1,000-mile length of the region from the Potomac to the Mississippi.

The acreage in districts represents over one-third of the total area of the region. Districts have been organized in all seven states in the region, ranging from 7 districts in Florida to 19 in Mississippi. Georgia, with 18 districts, comprising more than 21,600,000 acres, has a larger acreage in organized districts than any other state in the Region.

#### DR. LOWDERMILK ON EXTENSIVE FIELD TRIP

Dr. W. C. Lowdermilk, Assistant Chief of the Service, is on an extended lecture tour of the Western States. His lectures consist of his studies of the experience of older countries in the use of land as it relates to soil erosion, soil and water conservation, and torrential flood control. Since his departure from Washington in May, Dr. Lowdermilk has visited Region 3, Region 5, and Region 7, where he has talked to large and encouraging audiences. Dr. Lowdermilk has also visited many projects and districts in these Regions.



At the present time, Dr. Lowdermilk is in Region 9, with headquarters at Spokane, Washington.

#### EDITORIAL

We reprint herewith an editorial from the June 5, 1940 issue of the Palm Beach Post, a daily newspaper in Palm Beach, Florida. There have been many such expressions of public confidence in the Soil Conservation Service and we appreciate all of them.

#### ANOTHER JOB TACKLED

One department of the Federal government in which politics has never gained a foothold is the Soil Conservation Service.

Possibly that may help to explain the remarkable record of efficiency and economy it has been able to achieve. Personnel of the Service is selected entirely on the basis of merit, as are practically all other regular employes of the Department of Agriculture, and its operations are carried on with the sole purpose of getting the best results.

The benefits of this policy are now being felt throughout the arid regions of the West and in other sections of the country where the Soil Conservation Service has taken over the important task of preventing the nation's soil from being blown and washed away.

And now, at the command of Congress, this same organization is tackling the job of saving the rich muck lands of the Florida Everglades for the use of future generations.

In the opinion of the Soil Conservation Service experts the job will be neither particularly difficult nor expensive. That should be good news to those Floridians who have been accustomed to think of Glades conservation in terms of millions of dollars.

The solution of the problem, as the Federal men have worked it out, is simply to determine what land is worth saving and then to provide it with a system of dikes and ditches, planned to hold the water table so high that the muck cannot burn. The remaining areas they would leave to the natural wild life of the region.

Engineers are now at work making the surveys on which the general conservation plan will be based and men and equipment are engaged in constructing the beginnings of the dike and ditch system. So economically

have these operations been carried on that it is estimated not less than \$25,000 of the \$75,000 will be turned back to the Federal treasury at the end of the fiscal year.

It may yet be too early to indulge in any prediction as to the success of the plan, but judging by accomplishments of the Soil Conservation Service elsewhere, it wouldn't be safe to bet on a failure in the Everglades.

#### FSA AUTHORIZED TO LOAN MONEY TO DISTRICTS

The Washington offices of the Farm Security Administration have notified their field representatives in Amarillo, Texas, that they can lend FSA funds to low-income farmers in the Rush Creek Soil Erosion District, Elbert County, Colorado, to enable the farmers to pay for installing necessary soil conservation measures and practices.

The Farm Security Administration will accept as security the payments to be received under the Agricultural Conservation Program; and it has authorized Wilson Cowen, acting Regional Director in Amarillo, to make loans up to an amount equal to 90% of these payments.

The importance of this step is obvious. Some farmers do not have the ready cash to make their payments immediately for the installation of those soil conservation measures and practices which are necessary and which they are not in a position to carry out without some assistance. Now that the Farm Security Administration has endorsed the principle of loans to low-income farmers in districts, the work in districts should go forward at an even more rapid rate.

#### LEGISLATION

On June 25, 1940, the President signed the Agricultural Appropriation Bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1941.

Representative Case, of South Dakota, has introduced a bill (H.R. 10122) authorizing the Secretary of Interior to construct water conservation and utilization projects in the Great Plains and arid and semi-arid areas of the United States. Senator Wheeler, of Montana, introduced a similar bill (S. 4167) in the Senate.



### SERVICE NEWS A GOOD ADVERTISING MEDIUM

In a recent issue of Service News, we published an article describing an improved Hand and Cultivator Seeder for seeding cover crops, developed at Camp SCS Pa-8, Lancaster, Pa.

Victor Olsen, superintendent of the camp, has written that he has received thirty-seven requests from eighteen different States for photographs and detailed prints of the machine in response to the article in the News.

### A DISTRICT SUPPLIES A MINISTER

In the upper Northeast portion of Van Buren County, Arkansas, there are 100 farms covering 14,000 acres on which complete conservation farming systems are being established by the farmers with the assistance of Service technicians assigned to the vast Central Valleys District.

And what does this mean to this section? The words of Thad Harper, a local farmer, answer that question: "The people are more interested in the community since they put conservation systems on their farms. It seems like they plan to take root and stay here now that they can hang on to the land and not see it wash out from under them like it used to. Land values have increased. Our church was run-down, but it is being repaired, painted and put in shape. We've got a full time minister now -- and we didn't before we put erosion control measures on this land."

### PRINTERS' INK

Frank Harper, of the Information Division in the Pacific Northwest Region, has written the following articles to appear in the magazines listed:

- "Farmers Organize to Market Timber Crop," WEST COAST LUMBERMAN
- "Good Grass is the Best Sheep Herder," IDAHO FARMER
- "They Farm the Forest," WASHINGTON FARMER

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Kenneth Davis, head of the Current Information Section in Region 5, has written an article titled, "The Road Back to Soil Prosperity" for the magazine, BETTER CROPS WITH PLANT FOOD.

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"Clothing the South's Bare Fields" is the title of an article by Forney A. Rankin, of the Washington Information staff, which will appear shortly in the SOUTHERN AGRICULTURIST.

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The June, 1940, issue of the JOURNAL OF FORESTRY contains an article by Ralph F. Wilcox, of the SCS Forestry Division, titled "Intensive Forestry Projects Under the Provisions of the Cooperative Farm Forestry Act."

#### LIBRARY NOTES

The Service library has recently moved to Rooms 1521, 1523, 1525 of the South Building, adjacent to the Main Library of the Department.

Telephone numbers remain unchanged.

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In connection with the interest noted recently in the art of writing, the Library suggests the following helpful books:

English for Engineers, by Sada Annis Harbarger. Third Edition, 314 pp. Published 1934 by the McGraw-Hill Book Company.

Write and Speak Better, by William George Hoffman. 437 pp., illustrated. Published in 1937 by Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.

Writing the Technical Report, by Joseph Raleigh Nelson. 373 pp. Published in 1940 by the McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.

Preparation of Scientific and Technical Papers, by Sam Farlow Trelease. Third Edition, 125 pp. Published in 1936 by the Williams & Wilkins Co.

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The Service library announces that the following project monographs have been received and are available for loan:

#### Region 3

Kentucky 3 - Grassy Creek Project, Falmouth, Kentucky

#### Region 5

Minnesota 2 - Deer-Bear Creek Area, Spring Valley, Minn.

Wisconsin 1 - Coon Creek Project, Coon Valley, Wis.

#### Region 6

Kansas 2 - Elm Creek Project, Iola, Kansas

Texas 12 - Channing Project, Channing, Texas



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July 15, 1940

## YOUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS --

Numerous questions have arisen in the minds of SCS personnel in recent weeks with regard to the place of the Department of Agriculture in the National Defense program. Because of this fact, the Washington Correspondent column this issue is being given over to reprint of a memorandum recently issued from the office of Secretary Wallace. The memorandum follows:

The American people have now made provision for the national defense the guiding principle of Government and of industry.

To correlate efforts of industry and Government, the President has reestablished the Council of National Defense. This Council is composed of six Cabinet officers -- the Secretaries of War, Navy, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor -- and seven Advisory Commission members. You know that Chester Davis of the Federal Reserve Board is the Commission member for agriculture. You also know Mr. Davis's distinguished record of service in and with the Department and his intimate familiarity with the organization and the workers of the Department.

Mr. Davis and I have thoroughly explored the relationship of agriculture to national defense, and have come to one conclusion which we want to report immediately to you, namely:

It will not be necessary to set up new Government services, or new organizations of farmers to carry on agriculture's part of the national defense program.



Farm people themselves (through county extension organizations, AAA committees, planning committees, etc.) and Government agricultural services (in the Department and the Land Grant Colleges) are set up and staffed to do whatever needs to be done.

The existing farm program contributes mightily to national defense. Additional things may need to be done, however. When and if need comes, the people and the organizations now operating farm programs will be called on to do the work.

In the meantime, each Department employee and each farmer committeeman can make his maximum contribution to the agricultural phase of national defense by working hard at the present job. What you are doing is vital. It must go ahead full speed.

H. A. WALLACE

#### OPEN FORUM

Editor, Service News: Sometimes we in the field hear the remark, "If those Washington and regional men would leave us alone during the layout seasons, we would get a lot more done." Then again when some division head or chief, by the turn of a pen, asks for a lot of information or a flock of reports, you may hear the suggestion that, "those fellows ought to get out in the field and get their feet on the ground."

It is natural, of course, for each of us to feel that our job is one of the most important, and it must be that way if we are to take the necessary interest in our work. However, we must also realize the importance of supervisors and chiefs of sections in coordinating the entire program.

There should be a happy medium where we can accomplish great things for agriculture and still be properly supervised. Perhaps the top of the pyramid is still too large a part of the whole and perhaps, also, there is room for more efficiency in planning our work in the field so that we will have time for more reports and still accomplish more.

The fact still remains that the only justification for our Service is the results we can accomplish in the field; and anything that proves to be an obstacle to those results should be viewed with concern.

A temporary detail to the field as an actual worker, might be valuable experience for many of our supervisors. If we in the field found out that they could actually "take it", we would certainly have more respect for their wishes. Signed: F.M.H.

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Editor, Service News: I should like to express my complete agreement with the ideas presented in the open forum by H.L.R. in the May 15 issue of SERVICE NEWS. I should like to suggest also that some of us are located at Experiment Stations or other places where we do not have an administrative staff, that the burden of red tape is a serious problem.

The fact that other bureaus of the Department are able to make local purchases with a much less complicated system than seems to be prevalent in our Service would indicate the possibility that our Service could improve its methods in that respect.

Signed: L.R.M.

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The editor of SERVICE NEWS has received two letters for the Open Forum section, both of which are too long for use. One letter was written by W.H.M. and is on the subject of photography. The other letter comes from G.M.D. and offers suggestions regarding reports. If the writers of these letters will condense them to a page or less, or authorize us to use excerpts, SERVICE NEWS would like to print both letters.

Editor of SERVICE NEWS urges that writers of letters to the Open Forum keep them to as near a page as possible.

#### KEEPING ABREAST OF NEWS EVENTS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Closer economic relationships among the twenty-one American republics will be sought by three new inter-American commissions being set up to bring about a better utilization of natural resources, according to an announcement by Dr. Leo S. Rowe, Director General of the Pan American Union.

The new commissions will work on problems of rubber production and tropical agriculture in the Western Hemisphere, on the encouragement of soil conservation, and on inventory of the natural resources of both the American continents.

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### Argentina Starts Corn-Hog Campaign

A N.Y. Journal of Commerce story from Buenos Aires recently said that Argentina has launched a nation-wide campaign to encourage enormously increased consumption of pork, as an indirect result of the country's large corn surplus.

### Paper Sees New American Confederation

According to press reports from Montevideo, the newspaper El Pais predicted that a confederation of American nations will result from the forthcoming conference of American Ministers in Havana. Panama City, the "center of gravity" for the Western Hemisphere, would be the capital of such a confederation, the paper said.

### HOLT TO BRAZIL

Ernest G. Holt, Chief of the Biology Division of the Service has been loaned to the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, to conduct a special study of problems connected with jungle fever in Brazil. Mr. Holt's work will be to study the part birds may play in distribution of jungle yellow fever. He expects to be away for several months.

Mr. and Mrs. Holt left Miami, Florida by plane for Rio de Janeiro Friday, July 12.

Until Mr. Holt's return to Washington, William R. Van Dersal will serve as acting chief of the Biology Division. Edwin R. Kinnear will handle Mr. Holt's contacts and correspondence in connection with Latin-American cooperation.

Mr. Holt was elected President of the American Society of Agricultural Sciences during the Pan-American Congress held at Washington recently.

### DEFENSE PLAN SEEN USING U.S. SURPLUSES

An AP dispatch from New York, states that sources in Wall Street say that the vast U.S. defense program may be at least a partial solution of the problem of finding use for the Western Hemisphere's cotton, copper and other materials, formerly exported. The combined British and American war production, plus a tendency to fall into step on preparedness in some Latin American countries, would necessitate great quantities of raw materials, it was pointed out.



### YOU'LL WANT TO LISTEN IN--

The National Broadcasting Company in cooperation with the National Resources Planning Board is featuring a series of programs dealing with the resources of the United States and their relationship to national development and defense. These are half-hour presentations over the Blue network of NBC from 8 to 8:50 p.m. EDT, Wednesdays through September 4.

The program for these broadcasts:

Land---Water---Minerals	July 17
Productive Skills	July 24
Science and Invention	July 31
Transportation and Communication	August 7
Production and Consumption	August 14
Health and Education	August 21
The American Way of Life	August 28
Here We Come	September 4

### CHIEF TO ATTEND CHERRY FESTIVAL

H. H. Bennett will attend the annual Cherry Festival at Traverse City, Michigan, July 17, 18, and 19. He has been asked to address the meeting on July 17.

### Regional Grassland Conference

The Regional Grassland Conference at Tifton, Georgia, July 25 and 26 will be attended by Soil Conservation Service technicians along with other Department scientists, farmers, and farm leaders.

Grass plays an important part in the program of the soil conservation districts (there are 165 of these districts now organized in the South with applications for 366 more). About 40% of all the farm land in the South is now in soil conservation districts. These organized farmers are using grass as one of the most important weapons against erosion.

### FILM STRIP RELEASED

"Erosion Control in Maryland" is the title of the latest film strip (No. 588 - 49 frames) to be released by the Visual Information unit. Prepared by John Cotton, Maryland Extension Soil Conservationist, the strip shows erosion-control methods particularly suitable to Maryland conditions.

### HEALTH INFORMATION

To people working in fields and woods, the following information from the U.S. Public Health Service should be interesting:

Rocky Mountain spotted fever is transmitted to human beings by the bite of an infected tick. Some parts of the country are more heavily infected than others, but even in the most heavily infected areas only about one tick in three hundred is infected.

The best way to prevent Rocky Mountain spotted fever is to keep a careful lookout for ticks on the clothing and body, and remove them before they can do any damage. The tick can only feed and transmit the disease by attaching itself to the skin. The head may even be embedded in the skin. The tick most commonly attaches itself to the hairy parts of the body to feed. So if you find a loose tick crawling on your clothing or your body, even if it is an infected tick (one to three hundred chances it isn't), it has probably done no harm. It's a signal, however, to look for others.

If the tick is stuck, it is probably feeding or has fed already. It should be removed with a small forceps, a piece of cotton or paper rather than with the fingers, since it may be an infected tick and the infected blood may get on your hands. Do not crush the tick when you remove it. Burn it in a saucer or old can. If the tick has already bitten you, paint the tick bite with an antiseptic such as iodine, and wash your hands and the forceps thoroughly, then wipe them off with alcohol.

Remember, every tick bite does not mean that a case of Rocky Mountain spotted fever will follow. Ordinarily, an infected tick must have fed from six to eight hours or more in order to infect an individual. For this reason, prompt search for ticks (paying particular attention to the back of the neck above the hairline and under the arms), greatly reduces the chances of infection. If there is an animal pet in the family, it too should be searched for ticks, and it should be dusted with Dorris powder.

It is probably unnecessary to be vaccinated unless you are living in a heavily infected area or are going on an extended camping trip. Tick inspection every day is your best spotted fever protection. However, persons who wish to be vaccinated should request the vaccine from their family physician or local health officer.



### Attention Magazine Clippers!

The Library is after the scalps of those culprits, evidently more interested in recipes than soil conservation, who clip farm magazines whenever a recipe for a particularly tasty cake or pie is published.

The Publications unit is likewise perturbed by those returning borrowed publications with practically nothing but the covers left. Such activities not only mutilate the magazines, making them useless for permanent binding, but deprive other readers of complete texts.

### PRINTERS' INK

The July issue of American Forests carries a new article by W. C. Lowdermilk entitled "Colonization DeLuxe in Italian North Africa". In 7 months, Dr. Lowdermilk reports, 160,000 acres of land, uninhabited except by nomads, was transformed into fully equipped farms and villages by the Italian colonization program in Libya.

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L. R. Combs, Region 5 Information Chief, is the author of an article on farm plans and practices of the Freeport, Illinois demonstration area to be published shortly (probably July) in the Prairie Farmer, Chicago, Illinois. The article is titled "Farming Enters Conservation Era".

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"Spreads Straw to Save Soil" is the title of an article in the July 4 issue of the Washington Farmer. The author is Frank Harper of the Region 9 Information Division.

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W. S. Ligon, Head of the Physical Surveys-Analysis Section, Region 3, and P. E. Karraker, University of Kentucky, are co-authors of a bulletin recently published by the Kentucky Experiment Station entitled "A Key to Kentucky Soils".

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"A Survey and Discussion of Lysimeters and a Bibliography on their Construction and Performance" by Kohnke, Dreibelbis, and Davidson. Miscellaneous Publication No. 372.



"Conserving Soils and Their Fertility in the Northeast" is the title of an article in the June-July issue of Better Crops With Plant Food, by Grover F. Brown, Region 1 Chief Agronomist.

In Page Proof--

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"Some Principles of Accelerated Stream and Valley Sedimentation as Exemplified in LaFayette County, Mississippi", by Happ, Rittenhouse, and Dobson. Technical Bulletin 695.

0 ✓ "Review and Discussion of Literature Pertinent to Crop Rotations for Erodible Soils", by C. R. Enlow. USDA Circular 559.

"Hell and Mud Creeks Demonstration Project, Mississippi Erosion Survey", by D. T. Webb. Erosion Survey 12.

"Lake Crook Watershed, Lamar County, Texas Erosion Survey". Erosion Survey 14.

"Mad River Watershed, Vermont Erosion Survey", by C. H. Atkinson. Erosion Survey 13.

0 ✓ "Soil Defense in the Pacific Southwest", by Rule and Netterstrom. Farmers' Bulletin 1848.

"Relative Infiltration and Related Physical Characteristics of Certain Soils", by Free, Browning, and Musgrave. Technical Bulletin 729.

"Stock-Water Developments: Wells, Springs, and Ponds", by Hamilton and Jepson. Farmers' Bulletin 1859.

✓ "Use the Land and Save the Soil" - Soil Conservation Service. Unnumbered publication.

SUB-UNIT OF STENOGRAPHIC POOL  
IN SOUTH BUILDING

A sub-unit of the stenographic pool is now located in room 4960, South building, extension 2194.

In the past the pool has been located entirely in the Standard Oil building. The new unit will make for less delay and greater efficiency in relieving work loads of offices located in the South building.

### STATUS OF MOTION PICTURES NEARING COMPLETION

Several new motion pictures having to do with the work of the Service are in final steps of completion. No definite release dates can be announced, but the next 60 days are expected to see the release of one or two.

"A Heritage We Guard" dealing with the wildlife phase of the conservation program should prove popular with sportsmen and nature lovers as well as conservationists.

"The Living Land", which has a running time of less than five minutes, presents a good over-all picture of national conservation.

Watch for a revision of "Terracing in the Northeast" into a national terracing picture. While work has not yet started, demands from different parts of the country to "give us a picture like 'Terracing in the Northeast'" have started the Motion Picture unit planning such a film.

The story of erosion control along the country's highways is nearing completion.

In line with the emphasis on Latin American relations, the Service intends to release one, and perhaps 3 or 4 of its motion pictures in Spanish. One of these of particular interest to South Americans, titled "Roots in the Earth" deals with the land problems of the Spanish American people living along the Rio Grande River. Andrew Cordova of Region 8 has done the translation and is serving as narrator for the Spanish language version.

"Muddy Waters" and "Grass Land" (already released in English) are being considered for translation into Spanish.

### Washington Letter-Writing Meetings

Four letter-writing conferences for Washington personnel are being held throughout the month of July under the direction of H. L. Buckardt, Head of the Training Section. These are group discussions arranged according to divisions.

There will be a final meeting of all groups on July 31 in the South building auditorium for a summary by James F. Grady, Correspondence Counselor of the Department.



The first meeting attended by approximately 500 of the Washington personnel was held in the auditorium with D. S. Myer, Assistant Chief, presiding. Mr. Myer pointed out that these meetings were the outgrowth of a successful earlier conference of chiefs and assistant chiefs of the Service for the purpose of formulating policies and practices for effective letter writing.

#### A SNAKE--AND GULLY CONTROL

A harmless black snake is directly responsible for stopping a growing gully on the farm of Frank W. Justice, located in the Franklinton, North Carolina erosion-control demonstration area.

Five years ago a kudzu vine shaded the front porch of the Justice home. One afternoon Mrs. Justice spied a snake coiled in the vine. The kudzu vine was cut down and thrown into a gully across the highway in front of the house. That night a heavy rain washed down enough topsoil to cover the kudzu sufficiently for it to take root.

Today a dense growth of kudzu completely covers the gully and nearly an acre of threatened land.

#### DISTRICT ORGANIZATION IN REGION 3

Fifty farm group meetings arranged in Berrien County, Michigan, by County Agent H. J. Lurkins, in cooperation with the Service, preceded organization of the St. Joe River soil conservation district. Two types of meetings were held, according to W. R. O'Brien of the Benton Harbor office. Twenty-three so-called primary meetings were arranged, and these were followed by requested, or secondary gatherings. The primary sessions were attended by 1,231 persons, or an average of 53. Total attendance for the 50 meetings was 2,617. All talks were illustrated by motion pictures or colored slides made by Mr. O'Brien.

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SERVICE NEWS office is now located in room 4754 South Building, extension 4921.